



OCT 22 2021

Chief and Council  
Beaver Lake Cree Nation  
P.O. Box 960  
LAC LA BICHE AB T0A 2C0

Dear Chief and Council:

Beaver Lake Cree Nation Governance

The Beaver Lake Cree Nation operates under their own custom election code as of May 29, 1986. The *Indian Act* and the *Indian Band Election Regulations* are not applicable.

As such, Indigenous Services Canada no longer has the authority for how a governance disagreement, such as the removal of an elected Chief or Councillor, is resolved. Any such processes should be outlined and followed in accordance with the Beaver Lake Cree Nation custom code.

In this situation, any attempts by the Department to regulate custom leadership processes would constitute an unjust interference in the rights outlined in the custom election code. The Department strongly believes in self-determination, exemplary government and strong communities. Moreover, Indigenous Services Canada continues to recognize the official election results of the most recent election until such time as we are presented with legal documents to the contrary.

I trust this response explains our position with respect to the Beaver Lake Cree Nation governance. Should you require additional information, I invite you to contact Jason Cooper by e-mail at [jason.cooper@canada.ca](mailto:jason.cooper@canada.ca).

Sincerely,

Blair Cairns  
Director  
Indigenous Services Canada  
Regional Operations – Alberta Region  
630 Canada Place - 9700 Jasper Avenue  
EDMONTON, AB T5J 4G2